

LABORERS WILL STAND PAT FOR ENTIRE SUMMER

Union Head Says Men Can Hold Out—Denies Rumors of Organizing Factory Workers.

Members of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' union will maintain their strike all summer against contractors affiliated with the Good-City Builders' exchange before they will go back to work without recognition of their union and the obtaining of higher wages, Martin Barlett, business agent for the union, declared.

Mr. Barlett asserted that the men are standing pat on their demand for recognition and for increase to 65, 75 and 85 cents an hour for common laborers, hod carriers and casing workers, respectively.

There are only 36 of our men who are out of work, according to the count taken Thursday, and this number is no more than enough to do picket duty," Mr. Barlett declared. The union's strength is 1,500 members and all but 36 of the men are either working for local contractors outside of the association, or have gone to take up work at Savanna, Rockford and other points. The men who are working make weekly payments for the support of those who are not working and under this system we can hold out indefinitely.

Not Organizing Shops.

The business agent made strenuous denials of the rumors that the union is having trouble with the allied trades crafts and that there is any effort being made to organize common laborers in the factories. He declared that these rumors are being sent out as a weapon to kill the strike by getting other unions against the laborers and to get the manufacturers to make a

fight against the building laborers. "Our union confines itself strictly to organizing building laborers and hod carriers and the rumors that we are trying to cause a strike of all common laborers in the factories is absolutely untrue," the business agent claimed. "We have nothing to do with the shop laborers. Our men are building workers and a skeleton organization of this union has been had for years. The union has been reorganized and its membership is now 100 per cent."

We know nothing about the shop men nor their conditions as there is a wide stretch between the kinds of work performed. As to any trouble with the allied trades unions, I can say emphatically that there is no grounds for the rumors being circulated. We are affiliated with these unions and have been given their loyal support, and there has not been any breaches between us nor ill feeling."

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